

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TV-RADIO COVERAGE OF ME TRIP, MARCH 1.

FOR VEST FROM KING

SECRETARY'S ACTIVITIES IN ME RATED SCANT ONE-SENTANCE
MENTION BY ALL THREE NETWORK ANCHORMEN ON WATERGATE-DOM-
INATED EVENING NEWS SHOWS. CRONKITE, HOWEVER, INTERRUPTED
PROGRAM WITH BULLETIN THAT SYRIANS HAD REJECTED ISRAELI
PROPOSALS. ADDED THAT HAK SAID HE IS NOT GIVING UP EFFORT
TO GET SETTLEMENT. METROMEDIA LATER IN EVENING REPORTED
SAME WITHOUT COMMENT.

AYEM MARCH 2 RADIO REPORTS SYRIAN REJECTION WITH SOME PER-
SPECTIVE, SAYING DAMASCUS INITIAL REACTION WAS EXPECTED
AND THAT ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESUME IN
WASHINGTON IN TWO WEEKS WITH HAK CONTINUING TO ACT AS MIDDLE
MAN. SPOT NEWSCASTS REPORTING HAK IN SAUDI ARABIA TALK-
ING OIL WITH FAISAL, WITH NEXT STOP AMMAN.

ONLY TRAVELER HEARD WAS ABC'S, KOPPEL COMMENTING THAT ISRAELI
SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT THAN HAK HAS ANTICIPA-
TED. CBS (WASSERTHILE) REPORTS EX TEL AVIV THAT GOI NOT
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DISCOURAGED WITH SYRIAN REJECTION BECAUSE THAT'S WAY

EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN.

CBS FROM CAIRO (PETER WARD) HAD INTERESTING COMMENTARY CONTRASTING RECEPTIONS SADAT GAVE HAK AND GROMYKO. REPORTS HAK RECEIVED "AT ONCE" BY SADAT WHILE GROMYKO WAS KEPT WAITING IN SADAT'S OUTER OFFICE MARCH 1 WHILE EGYPTIAN LEADER HELD TALKS WITH WORLD BANK'S MC NAMARA. SADAT "APPARENTLY TOO BUSY TO SEE THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER." COMMENTARY ALSO NOTES THAT US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS RE-ESTABLISHED WITH GREAT PUBLIC ACCLAIM IN EGYPT, LEAVING SOVS TO ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY'VE POURED VAST AMOUNTS OF AID INTO EGYPT ONLY TO SEE EGYPT ELOPE WITH AMERICA.

NOTE: ALL THREE SUNDAY TALK SHOWS BOOKED WITH WATERGATE-RELATED PROGRAMS; NO FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTARIES EXPECTED. CASEY

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